

The “marked-up” version of the amended claims are provided in the APPENDIX attached hereafter.

### **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action dated December 20, 2001, claims 20 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-22 are now active in this application. The Office Action indicated that claim 22 is allowed and claims 20 is allowable if amended to overcome the objection imposed thereto. Claims 11-15 have been indicated as allowable if present in independent form. Based on the above amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and they be withdrawn.

#### **Drawing Objection**

In the Office Action, drawings have been objected to for several informalities. In this response, Fig. 2 has been amended to correct the typo in block 11. The Examiner stated that the reference sign 36 is not mentioned in the description. It is respectfully submitted that the reference sign 36 is mentioned in page 9, line 17 (“... a second reducing unit 36 ...”). Applicants submit that the drawing objection has been overcome, and, hence, solicit withdrawal thereof.

#### **Title Objection**

In the Office Action, the title of the invention has been objected to for not being descriptive. This objection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, the title has been amended to “DIGITAL STILL CAMERA CAPABLE OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND MODIFICATION OF ELECTROMAGNETIC SIGNAL INTO DIGITAL ELECTRONIC SIGNAL”.

Applicants believe that the new title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

#### Claim Objection

In the Office Action, claims 20 and 21 have been objected to for informalities. This objection is respectfully traversed. In this response, claims 20 and 21 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

#### Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1-10, 16-19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,009,336 issued to Harris, et al. (“Harris”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,845,166 issued to Fellegara, et al. (“Fellegara”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner admitted that Harris fails to teach “a modifying unit which modifies said electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image”. Regarding this missing feature, the Examiner asserted that “Fellegara teaches a digital imaging system having a modifying unit (camera operator interface 74) which allows digitally images to be manipulated (col. 10 lines 30+; col. 14 lines 16+) ...” (Office Action, Page 4). Also, the Examiner stated that “Fellegara also teaches that the digital imaging system is

communicated with a host computer via a wireless communication link ...". Based on these findings, the Examiner asserted that it would have been obvious to add a modifying unit to the communication device taught in Harris so as to allow digital images to be manipulated as desired by the users. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

Claim 1 recites (a) an electromagnetic signal, that is generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system, is received by a receiver, and (b) the electromagnetic signal received by the receiver is modified into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image by a modifying unit. Applicants believe that the camera operator interface 74 in Fellegara does not correspond to the claimed modifying unit.

Fellegara describes, in column 10, lines 31-34, "Alternatively, the operator may choose to change either the image format or the image capture mode by operating the image format selector switch 30". However, this description is directed to converting an optical image to a digital electromagnetic signal indicative of a still image, but not directed to modifying the electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image, as recited in claim 1.

Fellegara also describes, in column 14, lines 19-22, "... to allow the operator to select a specific image as the start image". This is one of the functions supported by the camera operator interface 74 when a user is taking pictures by using the camera 10 described in Fellegara. However, this description does not describe modifying the electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image, as recited in claim 1.

Fellegara further describes, in column 7, lines 11-14, “the digital sub system unit 72 interface with a host computer to perform various operations when the main camera body 10 is coupled to the host via data communication port 136. The data communication port 136 can either be ... a wireless type communication port ...”. Although this describes how a digital electromagnetic signal, which is indicative of a still image and converted from an optical image, can be transferred to a host computer by using a wireless communication port, this is not directed to modifying the electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system into a digital electronic signal which indicative of a still image, as recited in claim 1. Thus, the camera operator interface 74 does not correspond to the claimed modifying means.

It is submitted that the claimed modifying means is neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied references. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to modify or combine the teachings of the references to arrive at the claimed invention. Claims 2-10 and 16-19 are dependent from claim 1, and hence would be patentably distinguishable from the applied prior art at least for the same reason.

Regarding independent claim 21, this claim recites “a device which prevents the selecting device from selecting the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image unless the selection is requested by a manual operation”. In this regard, the Office Action fails to describe which portion of the cited references teaches or suggest this claimed feature. Also, based upon the Applicants’ review, it is submitted that this feature is neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied references. Thus, it is submitted that claim 21 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1-10, 16-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)(b) over Harris in view Fellegara is not viable, and hence solicit withdrawal thereof.

Other Matters


Claims 11-15 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As aforementioned, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Thus, it is submitted that dependent claims 11-15 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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## APPENDIX

The "marked-up" version of the amended claims is as follows:

20. (Amended) A digital still camera capable of telecommunication comprising:  
a device which converts an optical image into a digital electronic signal;  
a microphone for converting sound into an electronic audio signal;  
a device which selects one of the digital electronic signal indicative of [the] a still image  
and the electronic audio signal;  
a first transmitter which transmits an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with  
a wireless telephone system to designate a remote device having a telephone number;  
a second transmitter which transmits the signal selected by the selecting device as an  
electromagnetic signal generate" in accordance with a wireless telephone system containing the  
still image signal or the electronic audio signal to the designated remote device;  
a memory which stores at least one specific telephone number; and  
a device for preventing the selecting device from selecting the digital electronic signal  
indicative of the still image when the telephone number designating the remote device coincides  
with the specific telephone number.

21. (Amended) A digital still camera capable of telecommunication comprising:  
a device which converts an optical image into a digital electronic signal indicative of a  
still image;  
a microphone for converting sound into an electronic audio signal;

a device which selects one of the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image and the electronic audio signal;

a transmitter which transmits the signal selected by the selecting device as an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system containing the still image signal or the [voice] electronic audio signal; and

a device which prevents the selecting device from selecting the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image unless the selection is requested by a manual operation.